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Reverse glacier motion during iceberg calving and the cause of glacial earthquakes

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Abstract

Nearly half of Greenland's mass loss occurs through iceberg calving, but the physical mechanisms operating during calving are poorly known and *in situ* observations are sparse. We show that calving at Greenland's Helheim Glacier causes a minutes-long reversal of the glacier's horizontal flow and a downward deflection of its terminus. The reverse motion results from the horizontal force caused by iceberg capsize and acceleration away from the glacier front. The downward motion results from a hydrodynamic pressure drop behind the capsizing berg, which also causes an upward force on the solid Earth. These forces are the source of glacial earthquakes, globally detectable seismic events whose proper interpretation will allow remote sensing of calving processes occurring at increasing numbers of outlet glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica.

Main text

One third to one half of Greenland's total mass loss occurs through iceberg calving at the margins of tidewater-terminating glaciers (1, 2). Recent, rapid changes in glacier dynamics are associated with increased calving rates (3-5) and increased rates of glacial earthquakes (6). At large glaciers with near-grounded termini, calving typically occurs when buoyancy forces cause icebergs the full thickness of the glacier to capsize against the calving front (6-9). This type of calving is associated with glacial earthquakes (6, 7, 10), long-period seismic emissions of magnitude ~ 5 that are observed globally (11). The earthquakes have expanded northward and increased seven-fold in number during the last two decades (6, 12, 13), tracking changes in glacier dynamics, the retreat of glacier fronts, and increased mass loss (6, 14). Buoyancy-driven calving represents an increasingly important source of dynamic mass loss (6-8) as glacier fronts throughout Greenland have retreated to positions near their grounding lines (15). However, due to the difficulty of instrumenting the immediate near-terminus region of these highly active glaciers, few direct observations of the calving process are available, limiting development of the deterministic calving models required for improved understanding of controls on dynamic ice-mass loss. Detailed knowledge of the glacial-earthquake source would allow quantification of calving processes at a large class of Greenland glaciers as well as in several regions of Antarctica (13).

Agreement on the source mechanism of glacial earthquakes is limited. Analysis of long-period seismic data shows that a sub-horizontal force acts approximately perpendicular to the glacier calving front during the earthquakes (6, 13). The observed seismic signal is generated over a period of one minute or more (6, 11, 16), much longer than the source duration for tectonic earthquakes of similar size (17). Some authors favor a model in which momentum transfer produces a force acting in the upglacier and then downglacier directions as a newly calved iceberg overturns, accelerates away from the calving front and subsequently decelerates (6, 10, 13, 18). Others suggest that the seismic signal arises from the iceberg scraping along the calving front or fjord bottom (7) or colliding with the glacier terminus (19). Hydrodynamic interactions with fjord water may be important (20) but are little explored. Analytical investigations admit more than one possible mechanism for the earthquakes (18), and no persuasive explanation has been presented for the vertical component of the earthquake force. Here, we combine geodetic, seismic and laboratory data to identify the forces acting during calving at large glaciers and document the source of the associated seismic signals.

We recorded geodetic data at the calving margin of Helheim Glacier (Fig. 1) (9), a major outlet of the Greenland Ice Sheet, during 55 days in July-September 2013. A wireless network of on-ice GPS sensors (21) captured glacier motion with cm-level accuracy at positions very close to the calving front at a high temporal sampling rate (22). Hourly images from two cameras located ~ 4 km down-fjord from and looking at the calving front were used in stereo configuration to obtain the 3D geometry of the calving front and calved icebergs (8, 22). Data from the global seismographic network were analysed for the same time period to identify glacial earthquakes (13, 23) and obtain source parameters (11) including the orientation of the force active during the earthquake and the amplitude and centroid time, t_c , of a centroid-single-force (CSF) history of prescribed shape (22).

The glacier retreated ~ 1.5 km in a series of calving events during the observing period. We identified ten large calving events from the camera images. All coincided with glacial earthquakes; in two cases, two earthquakes occurred between subsequent images. During the earthquakes, the region near the calving front shows a dramatic reversal of flow, moving upglacier for several minutes while simultaneously moving downward (Fig. 2, Fig. S1). The horizontal and vertical motion then rebound rapidly.

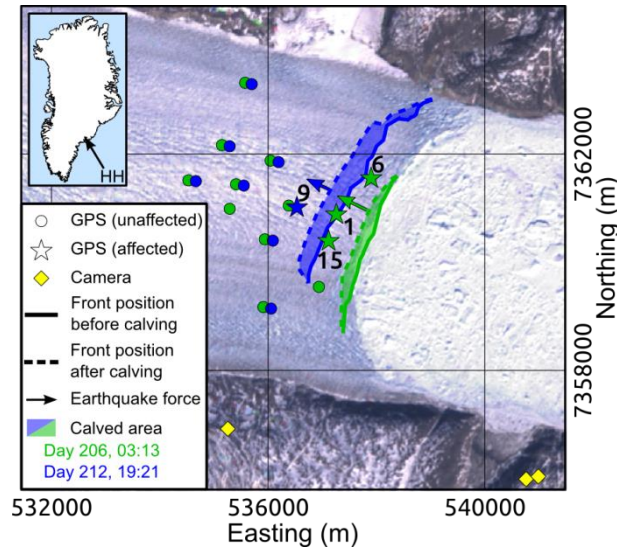


Fig. 1. Helheim Glacier, position of sensors, and seismic force directions. Location of GPS sensors and icebergs calved at Helheim Glacier (HH) for glacial-earthquake events at 03:13 DOY 206 2013 and 19:21 DOY 212 2013, superimposed on Landsat 7 image from DOY 167 2013. 'Affected' sensors exhibit earthquake-related deflections. Scan-line-corrector failure stripes have been removed for clarity. Glacier flow from left to right; bright white mélange (mix of iceberg fragments and sea ice) can be seen in front of calving margin. Calving-front positions obtained from photogrammetric DEMs derived from cameras. Times are UTC, positions are meters UTM zone 24N.

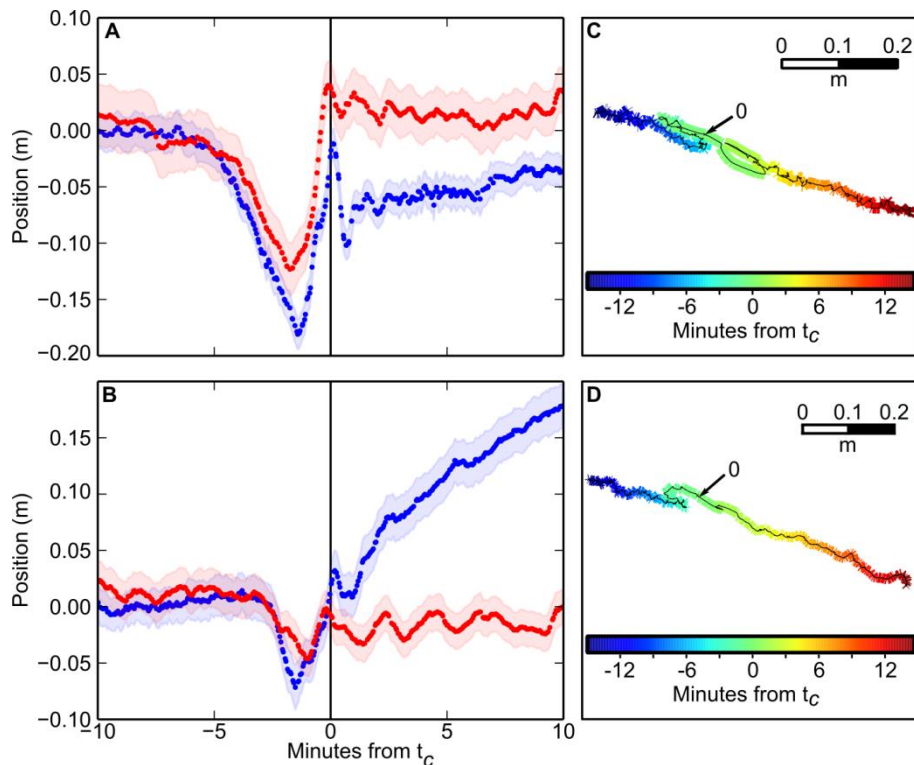


Fig. 2. Response of GPS sensors on glacier at the time of glacial earthquakes. (A) Sensor 1 at 03:13 on DOY 206 2013. (B) Sensor 9 at 19:21 on DOY 212 2013. Blue dots show detrended along-flow displacement, red dots show height. Shading shows 1σ position errors. Earthquake centroid time t_c . Horizontal displacement has trend from 30-10 mins before t_c removed (A=28.9 m/day, B=24.6 m/day). Height has mean removed. (C) and (D) Plan view of GPS traces shown in (A) and (B) during 30 minutes around t_c , marked as 0.

Observations from a glacial earthquake occurring on Day of Year (DOY) 206 at 03:13:47 are shown in Figs. 2A and 2C. Analysis of camera images indicates ice loss of $0.461 \pm 0.009 \text{ km}^2$ (Fig. 1) at a location of ice thickness 0.79 km, yielding an iceberg volume of 0.36 km^3 with aspect ratio 0.23. The earthquake had CSF amplitude $0.24 \times 10^{14} \text{ kg-m}$, with the force oriented 64°W (Fig. 1) and 9° above the horizontal. GPS sensor 1 (Fig. 1) showed a pre-earthquake flow speed of 29 m/day. Immediately prior to the earthquake centroid time, the sensor reversed its direction and moved upglacier at $\sim 40 \text{ m/day}$ (displacement 9 cm) and downward (displacement 10 cm). The reversed motion was sustained for ~ 200 seconds and was followed by a downglacier rebound at $\sim 190 \text{ m/day}$ (displacement 20 cm) and upward movement (16 cm) for ~ 90 seconds. Similar temporally coincident signals are seen on nearby sensors 6 and 15 (Fig. 1, Fig. S1).

Figures 2B and 2D show glacier deflection for a calving event on DOY 212 (Fig. 1). We observe similar responses for all glacial-earthquake / calving events during which GPS sensors recording data of adequate quality were located within 500 m of the calved block (a total of 9 glacial earthquakes and 8 image pairs). These events occurred on DOY 205, 206 (three events), 207, 211, 212, and 226 and are observed on multiple GPS sensors (further examples in Fig. S1).

The earthquake centroid times occur at or near the end of the glacier's rapid rebound phase, such that the upglacier earthquake force aligns in time with the reverse motion of the glacier. The horizontal glacier deflection is consistent with a model in which the reaction force on the glacier due to seaward acceleration of the newly calved iceberg compresses the glacier front elastically. The front then rebounds as the force decreases and reverses polarity during iceberg deceleration. The glacier front thus acts as a spring, compressing and re-extending in phase with the applied force, which is the horizontal component of the seismic source.

The downward deflection of the glacier front occurs in a region where vertical motion of the GPS sensors at tidal frequencies shows the glacier is ungrounded and seawater is present beneath it. Iceberg rotation is likely to cause a low-pressure zone in the opening cavity between the iceberg and the glacier front. This pressure decrease would lower the load on the bedrock, resulting in an upward force acting on the solid Earth, as observed in our seismic analysis. A pressure decrease near the calving front would apply a net downward force on the glacier terminus, lowering the glacier surface in a manner similar to that occurring twice each day when the ocean tides draw down the water level. At sensors experiencing earthquake deflections, we observe variations in vertical position due to the water tide of $\sim 0.1 \text{ m}$ per 1 m of tidal variation. The calving-related deflection of the glacier surface is $\sim 0.1\text{-}0.16 \text{ m}$, suggesting a change in water pressure equivalent to a water-height change of $\sim 1\text{-}1.6 \text{ m}$, or roughly $1\text{-}2 \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}$.

No observations of pressure or water-level variations are available from the region in the fjord immediately in front of the glacier, where thick ice mélange (Fig. 1) prohibits instrumentation. However, results from analog laboratory experiments allow us to evaluate our inferences (22). A model glacier "terminus" was secured at one end of a water-filled tank, and plastic "icebergs" made from low-density polyethylene were placed flush against the terminus and allowed to capsize spontaneously under the influence of gravitational and buoyancy forces (24; Fig. 3). Sensors embedded in the model glacier terminus monitored pressure in the water column and the force exerted on the terminus during iceberg capsize.

The measured force on the terminus as the iceberg begins to capsize is oriented in the upglacier direction and slowly increases as the iceberg rotates. As the iceberg nears horizontal, the force decreases rapidly. Pressure at the terminus decreases as the iceberg

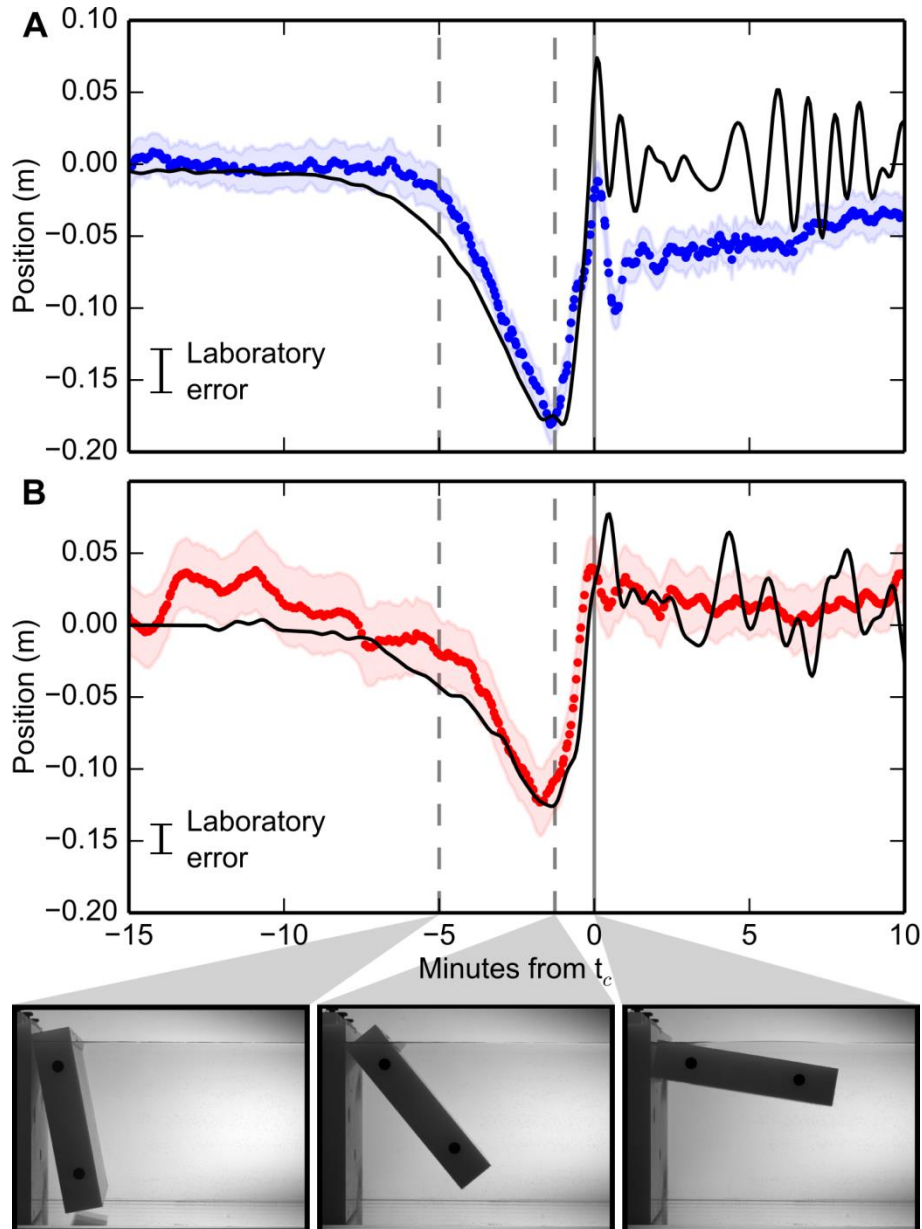


Fig. 3. Scaled laboratory data from glacier “terminus” during “iceberg” capsizing event compared to field observations. (A) Horizontal displacement scaled from force (black line) compared to downflow GPS data (blue). (B) Vertical displacement scaled from pressure (black line) compared to vertical GPS data (red). Errors in laboratory data are standard deviation from repeated capsizing events. GPS data as in Figure 2A. Photographs show stage of capsizing at times marked by dashed lines and (solid gray line) t_c . Aspect ratio of model iceberg is 0.22.

rotates, increasing again as the iceberg nears horizontal. Once the iceberg loses contact with the terminus, the measured force and pressure begin to oscillate due to induced wave action in the tank.

We scaled up the measured forces and pressures to match the dimensions of icebergs calved at Helheim Glacier (Fig. 3). The laboratory data scale by powers of the ratio of the iceberg height in the field to the iceberg height in the laboratory (20,24). The scaled peak force agrees well with typical values inferred from earthquake analysis ($\sim 10^{11}$ N). The scaled peak pressure drop ($\sim 5 \times 10^4$ Pa) applied over an area corresponding to the iceberg’s map-view dimensions yields an upward-directed

force consistent with the seismically inferred vertical force component, such that the total force acting on the solid Earth is oriented $\sim 10^\circ$ above the horizontal. Computation and inversion of synthetic seismograms from the scaled force and pressure data confirms the consistency of the laboratory model with real-world data.

We use the scaled force and pressure to predict the deformation of the terminus region (22). The total force F_{tot} per unit area A_F acting on the calving region produces a horizontal, linear deflection orthogonal to the calving front $F_{\text{tot}}/A_F = E\Delta L/L$, where E is the Young's modulus of glacial ice. The value of L is chosen to provide the best match to the glacier position data. This length-scale likely represents the distance from the terminus to the grounding zone. We model the ungrounded section of the glacier as an elastic beam of length L loaded by the vertical force due to the pressure drop. The inferred distances L are a few km, consistent with values estimated from GPS data.

Glacier displacements predicted from the scaled laboratory data for iceberg dimensions corresponding to a calving event on DOY 206 (Fig. 1, Fig. 2A) are shown in Fig. 3. Agreement with the observed glacier displacement is very good, particularly during the time over which the force acts in the upglacier direction (until the earthquake centroid time). After this time, the laboratory-derived prediction is dominated by oscillations of the water column in the tank, which does not contain the thick layer of ice mélange present in Helheim Fjord and expected to damp such high-frequency oscillations.

We conclude that as large icebergs rotate and accelerate away from the glacier calving front (Fig. 4), the reaction force, which is the horizontal component of the earthquake force, compresses the glacier front elastically, overcoming normal downglacier flow and temporarily reversing the motion of the glacier. Hydrodynamic interaction of the iceberg with the fjord water rapidly reduces pressure behind the rotating iceberg, resulting in an upward force on the solid Earth that is the vertical force observed in the earthquake. The lowered water pressure draws down the ungrounded glacier margin, pulling the glacier surface downward during the earthquake.

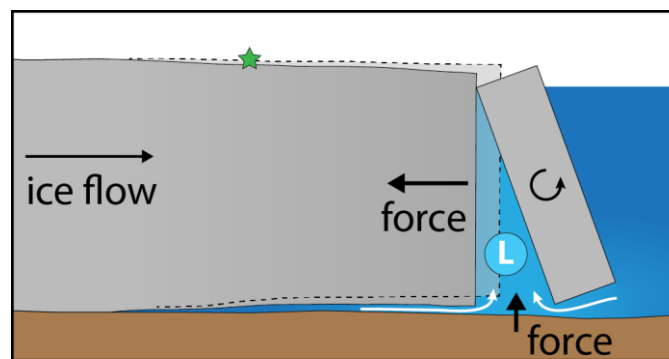


Fig. 4. Cartoon of glacier terminus during calving event. Glacier deflection caused by capsizing iceberg shown relative to initial position (dotted line). Acceleration of iceberg to right exerts a force in the upglacier direction (left), leading to reverse motion of the GPS sensors (green star). Reduced pressure behind the iceberg (“L”) draws water from beneath the glacier and from the proglacial fjord, pulling the floating portion of the glacier downward and exerting an upward force on the solid Earth.

Our results document the forces active during an increasingly important class of calving events and definitively identify the processes that cause glacial earthquakes. This understanding of glacier calving and glacial earthquakes opens the potential for remote, quantitative characterisation of iceberg calving and calving rates, as well as improved models for ice-ocean interaction.

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Supplementary Materials

Materials and Methods

Figure S1

References (25-41)

Additional Data Table S1

Supplementary Materials for

Reverse glacier motion during iceberg calving and the cause of glacial earthquakes

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This file includes:

- Materials and Methods
- Fig. S1
- Additional Data Table S1 (caption)

Materials and Methods

Glacial earthquake analysis

We detected glacial earthquakes by back-propagation of vertical-component seismic signals recorded at stations of the global seismographic network (13, 23). We also inspected back-propagated seismograms and array stacks interactively to identify earthquakes too small for automatic detection by our standard algorithm (10). The earthquakes were initially identified independently of image analysis; one additional weak seismic signal was confirmed as an earthquake after comparison with camera imagery.

We modelled the seismic waveforms using a centroid-single-force (CSF) formalism (11, 25) to confirm earthquake locations and obtain earthquake source parameters including the orientation of the force active during the earthquake, the earthquake CSF amplitude, and the earthquake centroid time, t_c (centroid of the temporal force history). The inversion approach and data processing follow ref. 6. We assume a force-time history 50 s long in which the force has a constant amplitude for one half the earthquake duration, followed by a constant amplitude of opposite polarity for the remainder of the duration; that is, the time function is a square wave of one cycle. The centroid time corresponds to the time of the polarity reversal of the force at the earthquake half duration. We note that the force-time history used in the seismic inversions is not derived from the seismic data, but is prescribed.

As discussed in ref. 16, the true earthquake time function may not be symmetric, and may have a duration longer than 50 s. The most important feature of the time function for the current analysis is the rapid change in force amplitude that occurs at t_c . The seismic data have good sensitivity to the time of this rapid force reversal, but are less sensitive to the duration of the approximately constant or slowly varying force acting in the up- or downglacier direction or to details of the shape of those early and late parts of the time history. An earlier study (6) found that

the assumed duration of the force-time history affected the inferred amplitude of the seismic source, but had very little effect on the inferred centroid time or force orientation. Here, we therefore choose to use the 50-s force-time function for consistency with previous systematic studies of glacial earthquakes (6, 10, 11, 13, 16).

We performed an experiment using the scaled force and pressure timeseries from the laboratory experiments to provide input, time-varying force histories simulating a glacial earthquake. The pressure timeseries were converted to a vertical force history by multiplication by the map-view area of the iceberg calved, as determined from photogrammetric analysis. Vertical and horizontal force histories were downsampled to one sample every 10 s and modelled as a series of overlapping isosceles triangles of varying height. Synthetic seismograms were calculated by summation of normal modes in the preliminary reference Earth model (PREM) (26) for each triangular sub-source and the seismograms summed to form the complete records. Seismograms were calculated for stations at a range of distances and azimuths representative of those typically available for analysis of glacial earthquakes at Helheim Glacier. The seismograms were then inverted using the same approach as for data seismograms to obtain earthquake parameters.

Photogrammetric analysis

Two 15.1 megapixel Canon 50D single lens reflex (dSLR) cameras were installed in stereo configuration on the bedrock margins of Helheim Fjord ~4 km down-fjord (east) from and looking at the calving front. The cameras were manually synchronized to take hourly photographs and operated between 2013 DOY 196 and 245. Fixed 28 mm wide-angle lenses were used in order to capture the majority of the calving front. Digital elevation models (DEMs) were produced photogrammetrically from stereo imagery using the 3D visualization capabilities of SocetSET digital photogrammetry suite alongside the bundle adjustment and DEM extraction components of Topcon's ImageMaster. Ground control information was extracted from a 2013 lidar DEM (27). We compared DEMs prior to and following calving events to obtain three-dimensional calving geometry, including the locations of the calving margins. Detailed methodology of the photogrammetric processing is described in the Methods and Supplementary Material of ref. 8.

Estimates of glacier thickness and iceberg aspect ratio

Estimates of glacier thickness for the DOY 206 and 212 events were made using IceBridge MCoRDS L3 Gridded Ice Thickness, Surface, and Bottom, Version 2 (28). Mean bottom elevations of flightline points that fell within the areal extent of each calving event provided our estimates. In the vicinity of the heavily crevassed calving front, errors are estimated to be ± 60 m (8).

Iceberg aspect ratios, defined as the along-flow width of the calved iceberg to the estimated iceberg height, were estimated using the photogrammetric results and an equivalent rectangular iceberg, together with the estimated glacier thickness. Idealized rectangular dimensions were constructed by measuring iceberg cross-glacier and along-flow widths and adjusting these to rectangular dimensions matching the measured map-view area of ice lost in each calving event.

GPS data processing

GPS sensors on ice and bedrock used Ashtech MB100 dual-frequency geodetic receiver boards and ASH111661 dual-frequency antennas.

The position of the base station located on bedrock was estimated using the Precise Point Positioning (PPP) method (29) with GIPSY-OASIS version 6.2 software from JPL. In addition to base-station coordinates and a receiver clock offset, a zenith wet tropospheric delay and tropospheric gradients were estimated. JPL fiducial orbit and 30-s clock products were held fixed. Hydrostatic zenith delay was modelled (30) with zenith delays mapped to elevation using the Global Mapping Function (GMF) (31). Ocean tide loading displacements were corrected for using the FES2004 model (32) and solid Earth tides were corrected according to the IERS 2010 conventions (33). Carrier-phase ambiguities were fixed to integers where possible (34).

GPS data from sensors on the glacier surface were processed using the relative carrier-phase method with TRACK version 1.29 software (35) from GAMIT 10.50. Kinematic positions were estimated with respect to the fixed base station using the ionosphere-free linear combination of L1 and L2 observations (LC). Baseline lengths ranged from 1.5-5.6 km. An elevation-angle cutoff of 10° was applied. We used orbit and high-rate (5 s) clock products from CODE (36). Zenith delays were modelled and mapped as above (30, 31) but no wet tropospheric correction was estimated. Observations were processed on a day-of-year basis, with prior-day and following-day orbit and clock data appended to facilitate TRACK's interpolation scheme. Kinematic site motion was modelled using a random-walk stochastic model. The model standard deviation was set at $0.01 \text{ m/s}^{0.5}$. Position time series were filtered to exclude data where the number of unfixed biases was greater than 2, the number of double differences was fewer than 10, or the height uncertainty was greater than 0.1 m.

Laboratory Experiments

Data acquisition

The laboratory experiments were performed in a fresh-water tank 244 cm long, 30 cm wide, and 30 cm tall, similar to tanks used previously (20, 24, 37). A model glacier terminus was secured at one end of the tank. Plastic icebergs made from polyethylene with a density nearly identical to glacier ice (920 kg/m^3) and height $H_L = 20.3 \text{ cm}$, width εH_L , and cross-tank dimension $D_L = 26.7 \text{ cm}$ were placed flush against the terminus and allowed to capsize spontaneously under the influence of gravitational and buoyancy forces. Experiments were conducted with icebergs of aspect ratio $\varepsilon = 0.22, 0.28, 0.43, 0.54$. Three levels of perforated plastic sheet were secured at an incline to the water's surface at the other end of the tank to damp seiche modes (38). Two different model termini were used: one with an embedded pressure sensor that monitored pressure at three water depths and one that was coupled to four force sensors located at each corner of the terminus. The pressure and force data were acquired at a rate of 200 Hz.

The pressure sensor (GEMS™) had a maximum range of 2500 Pa hydrostatic pressure and a response time of 5 ms. We used the pressure data recorded at the deepest of the three measured depths in our analyses. The force sensors (Strain Measurement Devices) each had a maximum range of 0.5 N. The sensors rely on mechanical deflection to measure the force. The terminus used to measure the force was designed so that its frequency response was flat in the bandwidth produced by the motion of the iceberg and subsequent waves. The total force was calculated by summing the signals from all four sensors and inherently represents a sum of contact and pressure forces acting on the terminus. Repeat experiments showed nearly identical results for both the pressure and force measurements. The results shown in Fig. 3 represent the average of three force measurements and five pressure measurements. The position and orientation of the plastic iceberg were determined by image analysis and were used to synchronize the force and pressure measurements in time.

Scaling of laboratory data

In order to compare lab data to field data, the forces and pressures measured in the laboratory were scaled up to match the dimensions of icebergs at Helheim Glacier, as measured by photogrammetry. Following previous studies (20, 24), the laboratory data were scaled by powers of the ratio of the iceberg height in the field, H_F , to the iceberg height in the laboratory, H_L . Because the gravitational potential energy released by iceberg capsize scales as H^4 (24, 39), force measurements from the laboratory were scaled by $(H_F/H_L)^3$, pressure measurements by (H_F/H_L) and time scales by $(H_F/H_L)^{1/2}$. This method of scaling implicitly assumes that the flow of the water in the lab and in the field can be considered dynamically similar. The Reynolds number for flow is $\sim 10^{10}$ in the field and $\sim 10^5$ in the lab, but the flow is turbulent in both cases and typical drag coefficients on solid bodies vary little in this flow regime (20, 24).

Prediction of glacier deflection

The scaled force and pressure are used to predict the time history of deflection of the glacier-terminus region. We modeled the deflection of the calving region as an elastic response to the force applied. The total force per unit area acting on the glacier terminus produces a linear deflection orthogonal to the calving front such that $F_{tot}/A_F = E\Delta L/L$, where E is the Young's modulus of glacial ice (~ 1 GPa; refs. 40, 41). The area over which the total force acts is the surface area of the terminus adjacent to the capsizing iceberg, $A_F \sim H_F D_F$, where D_F is the cross-glacier length of the calved iceberg. In Fig. 3, the value of L was chosen so as to best match the GPS data ($L=4.9$ km). The length-scale L likely represents the approximate distance from the terminus to the grounding zone.

The pressure reduction in the water behind the rotating iceberg creates a downward force on the front of the glacier (in contrast to the upward force it causes on the solid earth). The water under the ungrounded region of the glacier responds to this reduction in pressure ($\sim 5 \times 10^4$ Pa), creating a net vertical force acting on the glacier over an area $A_p \sim \kappa L D_F$, where κ is the fraction of the length L over which the pressure is initially reduced beneath the glacier. We model the glacier tongue as an Euler–Bernoulli beam of length L with a varying load due to gravitational, buoyant, and pressure forces acting on it. Our simplified model assumes the beam is clamped at the grounding line and stress free at the terminus. Varying κ to match the L determined from the horizontal deflection ($L = 4.9$ km) yields $\kappa = 0.02$, such that the pressure load is applied over a narrow region parallel to the glacier terminus consistent with the dimensions of the capsizing iceberg.

For the comparison of predicted and observed deflection shown in Fig. 3, we low-pass filter the scaled pressure and force traces using a 5-pole Butterworth filter with a corner period of 40 s. The pressure and force records are dominated by the very-long-period deflection signal, and this choice of filtering does not affect our results or interpretation, but serves to reduce the presence of high-frequency oscillations of the water column in the tank that are expected to be damped by ice mélange in the glacier fjord. It also removes low-amplitude, very-high-frequency sensor noise.

We find that the model iceberg aspect ratio for which the scaled laboratory data best match the observed GPS data shown in Fig. 2 is $\epsilon = 0.22$, compared to a measured iceberg aspect ratio from field data of 0.23.

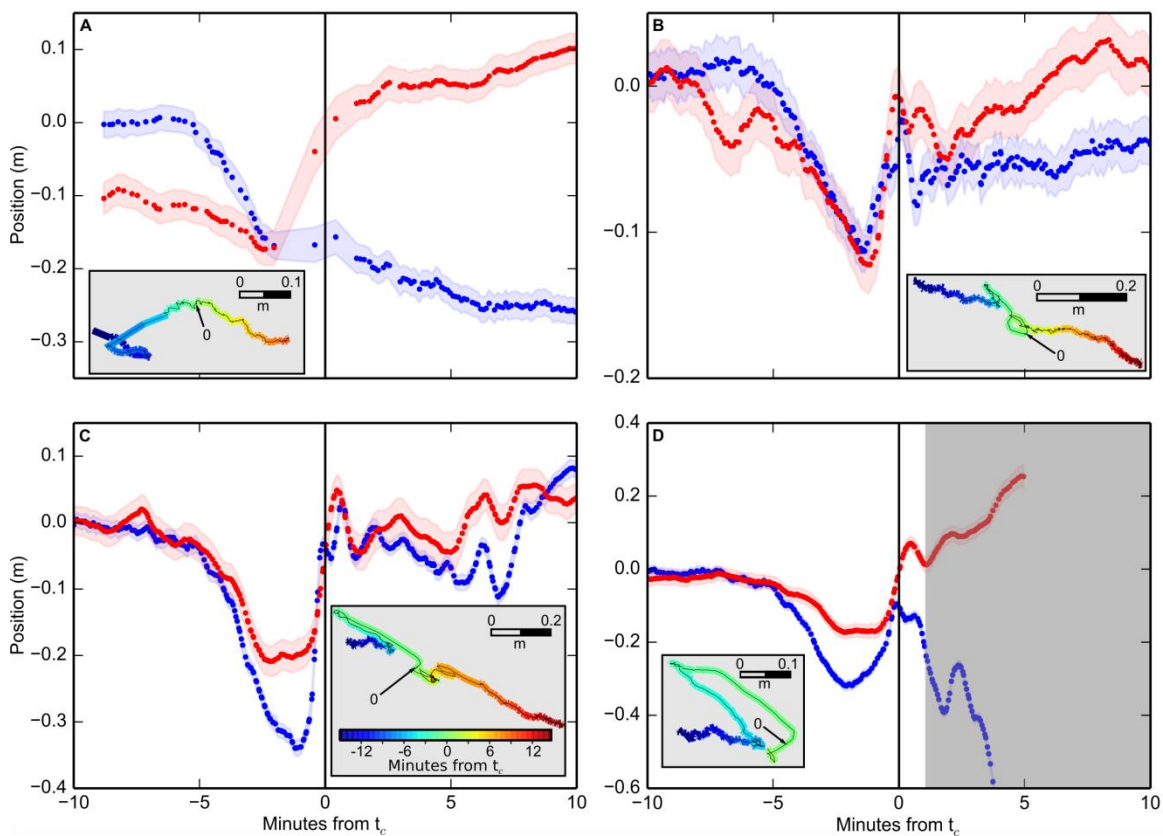


Fig. S1. Additional examples of glacier response at times of glacial earthquakes. (A) Sensor 6 at 03:13 on DOY 206 2013; some data missing due to communications failure. (B) Sensor 15 at 03:13 on DOY 206 2013. (C) Sensor 1 at 12:56 on DOY 206 2013. (D) Sensor 15 at 12:56 on DOY 206 2013; sensor is lost shortly after this event. Symbols as in Fig. 2. Horizontal displacement for B-D has trend of 30-10 mins before t_c removed (B=27.6 m/day, C=27.5 m/day, D=29.4 m/day) and for panel A the trend from 10-5 mins before t_c (36.0 m/day). Height has mean removed. Insets (grey boxes) show plan view of GPS trace during 30 minutes around t_c , marked as 0; in panel (D), grey shaded region (showing time of imminent sensor loss) in main panel is excluded from inset.

Additional Data Table S1

Data are provided as a separate file.

Measured force and pressure variations on analog glacier terminus during calving events in laboratory experiments shown in Fig. 3. The force data are the average of three sets of experiments and the pressure data are the average of five sets of experiments, both using a plastic block with an aspect ratio of 0.22 capsizing against a model terminus (22). The data are reported at a sampling interval of 0.005 s and span a time range from -10 to +10 s, with time defined such that time $t=0$ occurs when the plastic iceberg first passes horizontal. The first column is time [s], the second is force [N] and the third is pressure [Pa].